

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Serial No. 09/826,032

Filed: April 3, 2001

Group III: claims 76-77, drawn to a method for optimizing diffractive surface of a lens.

In response to this requirement, and without conceding the correctness of any statement in the Office Action, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-55.

The Examiner has also required that if Group I is elected, Applicants must further elect between:

Subgroup I-A: claims 5, 14-18, 42-46 and 48, drawn to a structure having a top/upper portion supporting a lens and a bottom/lower portion supporting an object wherein a locking mechanism is used to removably lock the portions;

Subgroup I-B: claims 6-13, drawn to a positionable slide holder; and

Subgroup I-C: claims 29-38, drawn to a focusing mechanism.

First, the Examiner has recognized that claim 1 links what the Examiner has characterized as subgroups I-A, I-B, and I-C, and that upon allowance of claim 1, the restriction relating to the linked inventions will be withdrawn. Second, Applicants also note the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 2-4, 19-28, 39-41, 47, and 49-55 are not included in any of the subgroups and will be examined along with linking claim 1, regardless of what subgroup is elected. In response to this election, and without conceding the correctness of any statement in the Office Action, Applicants elect Group I-A.

The Examiner has further required that Applicants must elect one of the following species:

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Species A: directed to the use of one and only one lens; or

Species B: directed to the use of a plurality of lenses.

Without conceding the correctness of any statement in the Office Action, Applicants elect Species A, and believe that claims 1-46 and 53-55 read on the elected species.

Applicants believe that no fees are due, but if mistaken, please charge any additional fees to Deposit Order Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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